

# STRENSALL WITH TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Rainbow Centre, Robert Wilkinson School, West End, Strensall, YORK YO32 5UH

Phone: 01904 491569

e-mail: clerk.strensallpc@talktalk.net

## Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at The Village Hall, Strensall at 19.00

The meeting commenced at 19.07

### 1. Consultation with Members of the Public over Affordable Housing

Members of the public had again attended the meeting to ask about affordable housing proposals. A number of residents were opposed to the scheme to build on green belt land and others were in favour. The chairman reiterated the Parish Council's stance that they supported the provision of affordable housing but are opposed to any development on the greenbelt.

### 2. Present

Cllrs Jesse (Chair), Baxter, Chambers, Chapman, Cuthbertson, Marquis, Plant, Scott, N Smith, Swales, Young

### 3. In Attendance

16 members of the public.

### 4. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Blacklee, J Smith

### 5. Declarations of Interest

None

### 6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was reported that the Minutes of the previous meeting should have referred to 'Westpit' instead of 'Westfield' in Minute 19b

*RESOLVED that, with the substitution of 'Westpit' for 'Westfield' in Minute 19b, the Minutes of the previous meeting (held 12/01/10) be approved as a true record.*

The Chair signed the Minutes of the previous meeting as amended.

### 7. Matters Arising

The Chair advised that:

- a. The Cemetery Committee's next meeting would be on 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00
- b. No request for an election had been received by CoYC from at least 10 electors of the Parish, so the vacancy on the Parish Council could be filled by co-option.
- c. Dean Landscapes had now submitted a quotation of £140 + VAT per cut for the verges and £20 + VAT per cut for the XXXX open space, making a total cost of £800 + VAT.

*RESOLVED that the quotation from Dean Landscapes be accepted.*

### 8. Report from Attendees at Affordable Housing Drop-In Session

Two Members that they had attended the Drop-In Session held on XX8<sup>th</sup> February.

Cllr Chambers reported that he had attended from 15.00-17.00 and that the perceived issue with the site to the rear of 92-100 The Village was that of encroachment on the Green Belt, although residents generally supported the idea of affordable housing. A rumour had been spread that the Parish Council had approved this site and he had taken a copy of the Minutes of the relevant meeting to prove otherwise.

Cllr Chapman reported that he had been present from 17.00-19.00 and he had met some residents who were actively seeking larger affordable housing premises (perhaps a 4/5 bed-roomed house) because they needed more accommodation. These needs were different from what was being proposed. He had checked the affordable housing situation in Strensall and there are several locations where affordable housing has been made available. He also advised that residents objected to the idea of encroachment on the Green Belt at the site to the rear of the 92-100 The Village and that residents were generally supportive of building affordable housing.

*RESOLVED that the reports of Cllr Chambers and Cllr Chapman be noted.*

8 members of the public left the room after this item.

### **9. Police Report**

Although unable to be present at the meeting, Cllr J Smith had presented a written report (attached).

*RESOLVED that the police report be noted.*

### **10. Planning Committee Report**

Cllr Chapman presented a verbal report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 09/02/10. A new application at 5-6 Northfields, Strensall had been considered and objections had been raised. A possible contravention of planning conditions at Hoxne Farm had been considered and it had been agreed that a request for enforcement action would be made.

*RESOLVED that the planning committee report be noted.*

### **11. Accounts for Payment**

Cllr Marquis advised that approval was sought for payment of the following accounts:

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Total</i>
Staples – Office equipment and stationery	686.29
Messrs Burn & Co – Legal fees	883.92
Brown's Nurseries – Christmas Trees	109.63
Clerk to the Burial Committee – funeral fees and wages	40.00

Cllr Marquis also advised Members of the following receipts:

<i>Source</i>	<i>Total</i>
HSBC – fixed interest bonds	32.15
Bank interest	1.27
Compensation for criminal damage (court order)	100.00
VAT reclaim	866.99
Cemetery income	170.00

A verbal update was given of the Parish Council's financial situation and the proposal to renew investment of capital in the same bonds.

*RESOLVED that the accounts listed be paid, the receipts noted and the capital funds be re-invested in the same bonds.*

## **12. Conservation Area Appraisal**

Cllr Marquis reported that CoYC had invited the Parish Council to make a contribution towards the cost of the proposed Conservation Area Appraisal process. The process would cover Strensall's three conservation areas – Strensall village, Towthorpe village and Strensall Railway Buildings.

*RESOLVED that the Parish Council contribute up to £1000 towards the cost of the appraisal process on the basis of an estimated cost of £5-6k.*

## **13. Warranty on PC Equipment**

Cllr Marquis reported that an offer to extend the warranty on the recently-purchased PC equipment had been received from the suppliers. The warranty would be extended to 3 years and would cost £300. Members agreed not to extend the warranty.

*RESOLVED that the Parish Council does not purchase an extended warranty for the PC equipment.*

## **14. Recruitment Committee – Post of Clerk and RFO**

The Chair reported that the Recruitment Committee had interviewed Mrs Sue Nunn following her application and had recommended that she be offered the post of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council. However, the post could only be offered on a remunerated basis to somebody who had been a member of the Parish Council twelve months after resigning. This meant that the post would have to be offered on a fixed-term unpaid basis until 19<sup>th</sup> December 2010. The post would be subject to at least quarterly progress reviews during the fixed term and would have to be re-advertised for the period from 20<sup>th</sup> December.

*RESOLVED that the post of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council be offered to Mrs Sue Nunn on a fixed-term unpaid basis until 19<sup>th</sup> December 2010 with at least quarterly progress reviews during the fixed term and on the proviso that the post would be re-advertised for the period from 20<sup>th</sup> December.*

## **15. Open Spaces**

Cllr Chapman reported that a planning application for work at the pond would now need to be submitted by Dan Calvert of CoYC. Work to restore and re-shape the pond could be carried out by BTCV volunteers at an estimated cost of £912 + VAT. The PayBack team would deal with clearance of trees and vegetation.

*RESOLVED that the planning application be submitted and that approval be given for BTCV to undertake the necessary work at an estimated cost of £912 + VAT.*

Cllr Jesse reported that a letter had been received from the Chief Executive of Shepherd Homes which suggested that the covenant might be extended. A visit to the old hockey pitch site on the other side of the railway line at Durlston Drive had been made.

Cllr N Smith reported that a list of possible sites for play areas had been compiled and would be circulated to Members. Land Registry searches to find the owners of these sites would be needed at an anticipated cost of £40.

*RESOLVED that Land Registry Searches on the sites listed by Cllr N Smith be carried out at an anticipated total cost of £40.*

## **16. Use of Northfields Play Area during half term**

Cllr Marquis advised that the proposed football coaching sessions would take place during the half term holiday (not Easter). They would not proceed if the ground was not in a suitable state for practice to take place.

*RESOLVED that the permission be given for the proposed football coaching sessions during the half term holiday subject to the ground being in a satisfactory condition.*

One member of the public left the meeting at this point.

## **17. Update on Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures**

Cllr Marquis advised that new draft Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures had been circulated to Members and that these would need to be considered by the Parish Council. It was also noted that a proposal to form Committees to deal with Employment and Appeals would also need to be considered.

*RESOLVED that draft Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures be placed on the Agenda of the next Parish Council Meeting along with a proposal to form Committees to deal with Employment and Appeals.*

## **18. Highways Report**

Cllr Young reported that the Parish Council now needed to agree to proceed with discussion and investigations by Graham Kelly of CoYC. Residents of Southfield Road would need to be consulted along with others in the village. Parking would need to be considered long with the direction of any one way system to be recommended.

*RESOLVED that the Parish Council support CoYC proposal to re-assess the Southfield Road traffic situation and recommend an appropriate course of action.*

2 members of the public left the meeting at this point.

## **19. Inbound Bus Stop at Strensall Park**

It was reported that further changes had been made to the proposals from First York. The bus stop might now be re-sited some 290m north of the current location. Some Members considered this to be dangerous. CoYC had said that it was not known who the users of the stop at that site might be. It was agreed not to support the proposal in its present form.

*RESOLVED that the proposal to re-locate the inbound Strensall Park bus stop be not supported.*

4 members of the public left the meeting at this point.

## **20. Correspondence**

The Chair reported that letters of thanks for grants made had been received from the Vicar of St Mary's Church and from Strensall Bowling Club.

A letter had been sent to the NPT and to Steads about the lack of security fencing at The Tannery site.

The Chair reported that a letter had been received about the safety of cyclists and pedestrians crossing New Bridge.

A letter had been received from the NSPCC asking for support and a letter had been received from National Association of Local Councils giving information about a forthcoming leadership academy.

Regular publications Country Air magazine and Voluntary Voice newsletter had been received along with the River Foss Society's events list.

*RESOLVED that details of the correspondence be noted.*

## **21. Updates**

- a. A Village Diary – this had been suggested by a resident and the post master was in favour. In addition St Mary’s Church had also produced a “Welcome Pack” for new residents which provided details about the community. This matter would be referred to the Long Term Planning Group.
  - b. Newsletter - Cllr Marquis reported that a draft Newsletter had been circulated to Members. The content was approved as circulated.
  - c. Noticeboards – it was agreed that noticeboards would be serviced by the following Members: Thompson Drive – Cllr Marquis, Station House – Cllr Plant, Post Office – Cllr Jesse, West End – Cllr Blacklee, Barley Rise and Towthorpe – Cllr Swales
- RESOLVED that the updates be noted and acted upon as agreed.*

**22. Date of Next Meeting**

*RESOLVED that, unless any matters requiring urgent consideration arise, the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at The Village Hall, Strensall.*

The meeting closed at 21.22

**NB These minutes are unconfirmed and subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Parish Council**

DRAFT